

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-11, 14-18, 20, 22, 23, 25-27, 34-38, and 41-44 are pending after inclusion of the present amendment.

In the Office Communication dated August 16, 2011 the Examiner confirmed allowance of claims 34-38 and 41-44. The Examiner further confirmed that claims 4, 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 18, 20, 21, 24, 26, and 27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1-3, 5, 8-10, 12, 15-17, 19, 22, 23, 25, and 28-33 have been rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,665,297 to Hariguchi ("Hariguchi") and U.S. Patent No. 7,002,965 to Cheriton ("Cheriton").

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 4. Claim 8 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 13. Claim 15 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 21. Claim 22 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 24. Claims 1, 8, 15, and 22 are in condition for allowance. Remaining claims depending on claims 1, 8, 15, and 22 are similarly in condition for allowance based at least in part on their dependency from a respective allowable base claim.

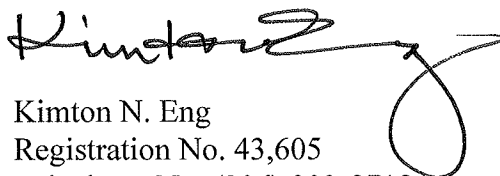
Claims 4, 12, 13, 19, 21, 24, and 28-33 have been cancelled.

As previously mentioned, claims 34-38 and 41-44 have been allowed.

The amendments made to claims 1, 8, 15, and 22, and the cancellation of claims 28-33, have been made to expedite the allowance of allowable subject matter. The amendments and claim cancellations, however, should not be interpreted as reflecting Applicant's belief that the subject matter of the unamended and cancelled claims is unpatentable, or that the Applicant has forfeited the subject matter of these claims. Moreover, Applicant has not addressed the merits of the Examiner's rejection of the claims, or whether the Examiner's characterizations of the cited references are accurate. Therefore, the presumption that Applicant has tacitly acknowledged the merit of the rejections or that the references cited by the Examiner are relevant to the patentability of the present invention should not be made.

All of the claims in the application are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and a timely Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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